

Patrick Hendry
Vice President Peer Advocacy, Supports & Services
Mental Health America
Alexandria, VA

Patrick Hendry strongly supports the inclusion of mental health peers in all aspects of the mental health system.

He is Vice President of Peer Advocacy, Supports and Services for Mental Health America (MHA). Patrick develops new services and training for peers within the behavioral health system. He has led MHA's development of the first national peer support certification.

Patrick is the former director of the National Consumer Supporter Technical Assistance Center, one of five SAMHSA-funded national technical assistance centers. He also served as the Associate Director of the SAMHSA-funded Statewide Consumer Network TA Center. He has provided technical assistance to over 15 states in developing peer-run organizations and services.

Prior to his work at MHA, Patrick worked as a mental health advocate in Florida. In 1992, he co-founded the first peer-run organization in Florida to contract directly with the State for the provision of peer-run services. Patrick helped rebuild the Florida Self-Directed Care program, which affords people with the opportunity to direct their own services. This program has served as a model for self-directed care programs across the nation and internationally. He then served as the program's Southwest coordinator and State spokesperson.

Patrick served as the Director of Consumer Affairs for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office for Southwest Florida. In this capacity he initiated the creation of peer involvement with mobile crisis and within a freestanding crisis unit. He provided peer support and "bridger" services to individuals in inpatient settings and assisted in the creation of a regional peer-run respite program. In 2006, he became the executive director of the Florida Peer Network, which he helped build into one of the nation's largest membership statewide consumer networks, and represented the voice of peers to state, federal, and provider agencies.

He was the 2014 recipient of the National Council's Eli Lilly Lifetime Achievement Award for Reintegration, and the SAMHSA VOICE Award. In 2012 he received the Clifford Beers Award from Mental Health America.